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September 15, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 200 A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

As you may know, most of our state has experienced extremely dry conditions in recent months, causing reduced crop yields, scorched pastures, and dry ponds. Due to these drought conditions, many of Missouri's crop and livestock producers are realizing a substantial loss of income.

I recently asked the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency to assess damage caused by drought in 104 Missouri counties. Based on the damage assessment reports submitted by the agency, I respectfully request the following 96 counties be declared natural disaster areas for agricultural loss due to drought:

Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Audrain, Barry, Barton, Bates, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Callaway, Camden, Carter, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dade, Dallas, Daviess, DeKalb, Dent, Douglas, Franklin, Gasconade, Gentry, Greene, Grundy, Harrison, Henry, Hickory, Holt, Howard, Iron, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Linn, Livingston, McDonald, Madison, Maries, Marion, Mercer, Miller, Moniteau, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Nodaway, Osage, Ozark, Pettis, Phelps, Pike, Platte, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Ray, Reynolds, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Schuyler, Scotland, Shannon, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Warren, Washington, Webster, Worth, Wright.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this request. If you should have any questions about this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Matt Blunt